

Minutes

Mineral Extraction Advisory Committee
November 3, 2004
Waukesha County Administration Center, Room 355/359

Those in attendance included the following:

Committee members: Sharon Leair
Mike Schober
Dave Swan
Joe Soltis
Jim Dawson
Tim Kraut

County Staff: Jim Rose
Mark Jenks

Guests: Brian Endres
Devin Wolf
Elaine Kraut
Barb Killey
Heidi Kraut Johnson

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 AM by Chairperson Sharon Leair who briefly introduced herself to the assembled group. Members of the committee who were present then introduced themselves and explained their particular interest in the committee.

Approval of MEAC meeting minutes – 7/14/04

Tim Kraut motioned to approve the minutes from the previous MEAC meeting in July, seconded by Joe Soltis. During discussion it was suggested that the words “including changing the title of the brochure” be added to the portion of the minutes where the discussion of the updated draft MEAC brochure occurred. With that note being made and hearing no other comments, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Election of MEAC Vice-chairperson

Next the group took up the topic of electing a vice-chairperson for the committee. According to the committee guidelines, this is scheduled to occur at the first MEAC meeting after May 1 of each year. With the unfortunate passing of the previous

chairperson, Vytautas Janusonis, earlier this summer, the election did not occur until a new chairperson was appointed by the County Executive. Mike Schober motioned to nominate Tim Kraut as the vice-chairperson and was seconded by Jim Dawson. Hearing no other nominations from the group, the nominations were closed and the committee cast a unanimous ballot for Tim Kraut as vice-chairperson.

Updates from the Waukesha County Aggregate Producers Group and Other MEAC Members

Since Dale Shaver, Director of the Department of Parks and Land Use was briefly delayed, the agenda was adjusted slightly to cover member updates before the discussion on Smart Growth.

The Waukesha County Aggregate Producers Group indicated that planning for the trucking safety seminar scheduled for March 29, 2005 is going well. This event will be held at the Waukesha County Expo Center and this year will cover the topics of engine braking and distractive driving. These topics are of particular interest since some local communities have passed or are considering engine braking ordinances. The Town of Summit was mentioned as one town where an ordinance was recently passed. Mike Schober suggested that the Aggregate Producers Group contact local police departments and let them know their stance on engine braking.

Next the group considered the final version of the updated MEAC brochure and during discussion on its intended distribution, the topic changed slightly to suggestions on how to improve MEAC as a whole and raise awareness about the group. There is some difference of opinion on the role of the committee and how pro-active the group should be when it comes to mediating disputes between aggregate producers and the public. The lack of complaints being brought before the group was cited as evidence that perhaps the aggregate industry is regulating itself very well.

During more discussion it was suggested that the brochure should be sent to the chairperson of all local communities along with a letter from the MEAC chairperson. The intent is to raise awareness about the group and invite those interested to attend any future meeting. Other suggestions brought forth were to move the time of MEAC meetings back to make the meetings more accessible and having the aggregate industry take the lead on publishing and distributing the brochure to communities.

In the end it was decided that the best way to proceed was to go with the initial suggestion of sending the brochure to local communities along with a letter from the chairperson reacquainting, or perhaps introducing them to MEAC. Due to printing costs, the county has limited ability to make brochures but will use a color printer to make enough to cover the needs of this mailing to the local communities. Joe Soltis motioned to accept the final version of the brochure, seconded by Jim Dawson. It was approved unanimously.

Smart Growth Planning Update

Dale Shaver, Director of the Department of Parks and Land Use was present to give the group an update on what has been happening on the update to the County development plan. This process, initiated by the Smart Growth legislation at the state level, is intended to result in a land use plan that communities throughout Waukesha County can view as one that addresses local concerns and desires and results in fewer land use conflicts in the future. To date, 26 of the 37 municipalities have agreed to work with the county in this process. The advisory committee has met and some of the subcommittees have been formed.

One subcommittee in particular is charged with updating the information about the natural resource elements contained in the plan. This subcommittee is hopeful that MEAC and the collective aggregate industry can provide some of the information needed to make the plan as accurate as possible.

The county is able to generate a map showing the areas currently classified for extractive land use. The request from the Smart Growth Natural Resources subcommittee is that the aggregate industry will work with the county to provide updated information about extractive land use. A map could then be generated that would indicate extractive areas presently active and permitted, areas owned by the extractive industry but not yet active or permitted, and those areas likely to become extractive land use in the future.

A second request from the subcommittee is that MEAC examine if there are any standards nationally for buffering areas around extractive land use and provide a recommendation to the Smart Growth group. Incorporating standards for buffering into the land use plan update could help avoid future land use conflicts. It was noted that a buffer standard would have to differentiate between types of extractive operations. The county will contact the American Planning Association and see if any information is available that would help initiate the buffering discussion.

To keep the land use plan update process on schedule, it is hoped that the mapping updates can be addressed quickly and that buffering language could be offered to the subcommittee by the end of March.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next MEAC meeting was scheduled for February 9, 2005.